

[25th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Involvement of Private and Public Sector in Leased Circuits and Bandwidth

***27. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by Government to over-see the provisions of leased circuits and band-width requirements of the Department of Telecom Services; and

(b) the details of the involvement of both public and private sectors in the proposed set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Government has planned to provide bandwidth on demand by March, 2001 subject to availability of materials. Accordingly, the Sanchar Sagar Phase I and Phase II Projects consisting of 10 rings and 32 rings respectively of 2.5 Gbps capacity SDH optical fibre networks are planned to be commissioned. Already, 8 out of the 10 rings of the Phase I Project have been commissioned and the balance rings are planned to be commissioned progressively by March, 2001. Telecom Commission has also constituted high level standing committee to oversee the provisioning of leased circuits and bandwidth requirements of the Industry. To facilitate quick processing of the request for leased circuits, steps have been taken to reduce the delays and instructions have been issued to the field units to procure the requisite material in advance. Interface approval process for radio modems has also been delegated to the field units to facilitate them to provide radio links where optic fibre media is not feasible.

(b) Government has decided to open national long distance operations. This is expected to lead to investment in infrastructure for leased lines and bandwidth by public and private sector. The requirement of materials like optical fibre cables and optical fibre and Microwave equipment are being met from the indigenous sources in the public and private sector. In certain areas, the optical fibre cable laying work is also being entrusted to some of the PSUs. So far as the international bandwidth for Internet is concerned, Government has decided to allow Internet gateways by internet service providers apart from VSNL. In addition, internet service providers (ISPs) will be allowed, either singly or jointly to set up their own landing stations in India in collaboration with international undersea bandwidth carriers.